

REMARKS

Claims 1-76 are pending in the above-captioned patent application after this amendment. Claims 1-71 have been previously allowed. However, the Applicants respectfully request that Examiner review this amendment after Notice of Allowance in light of the RCE and this Preliminary Amendment.

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 19, 32, 51, and 60 and have added new claims 72-76 in order to more fully encompass what the Applicants regard as the present invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that at least one of the claims 1, 5, 19, 32, 51, and 60 as presented in the Amendment can be interpreted as being broader in scope than these corresponding claims were as originally presented.

Support for new claims 72-76 and the amendments to claims 1, 5, 19, 32, 51, and 60 can be found throughout the originally filed specification. In particular, support can be found in the specification at page 3, line 19 – page 22, line 16, Figures 3 and 4, and in the originally filed claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.

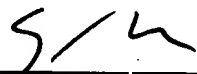
Reconsideration of the application and the new claims is respectfully requested in view of the above-recited amendments and the arguments set forth below.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-76 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-456-1951 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this the 21st day of April, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



STEVEN G. ROEDER
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,227

THE LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN G. ROEDER
5560 Chelsea Avenue
La Jolla, California 92037
Telephone: (858) 456-1951